



# Minutes

The Minutes of the meeting of the Catholic Parent Engagement Committee (CPEC) held at the Catholic Education Centre, Peterborough and virtually by Google Meet on Wednesday, October 2, 2024, at 6:30 p.m.

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**Present:**

**Committee Members:**

Julianne Charette (online), Karen Goodhand (online), Christine Haffie, Rachel Logan (online), Jen Ball (online), Kevin MacKenzie, Board Chairperson.

**Administration:**

Jeannie Armstrong, Superintendent of Learning, Adelle Cronin (Math Coach), Nancy McCarthy, Learning Consultant, Jennifer Minnie, Learning Consultant, Shannon Shillinglaw, Teacher (Math Coach), Amanda Walchuck, Teacher (Math Coach), Kerri Riel, Early Years and child Care Program Supervisor, Stephen O'Sullivan, Director of Education.

**Guests:**

Mary Ann Martin, Trustee (online), Kristen Daize, parent from the St. Stephen FOS (online), and Candice Turcotte, parent from the Holy Cross FOS.

**Recorder:** Michelle Kennedy, Executive Assistant.

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A. **Call to Order:** Due to the position of chairperson for the committee being vacant, the meeting was called to order by Stephen O'Sullivan, Director of Education.

1. Opening Prayer

Principal Julianne Charette led the committee in prayer to begin the meeting.

2. Land Acknowledgement

Following prayer, Stephen O'Sullivan, Director of Education, gave a land acknowledgement and noted that the meeting was taking place on the treaty lands and the traditional territory of the Michi Saagiig Anishnaabeg.

3. Approval of Agenda

**MOTION:** Moved by Candice Turcotte, seconded by Jennifer Ball

that the agenda be approved.

Carried.

4. Declaration of Conflicts of Interest.

Rachel Logan declared that she is an employee of PVNCCDSB.

5. Approval of the Minutes of the meeting held May 21, 2024.

**MOTION:** Moved by Christine Haffie, seconded by Julianne Charette  
that the minutes from the meeting held on May 21, 2024, be approved.

Carried.

6. Business Arising from the Minutes.

There was no business arising from the minutes.

7. Selection of a Committee Chairperson for the 2024-2026

Stephen O'Sullivan, Director of Education, invited anyone interested in becoming the chairperson to put their name forward. None of the members present expressed interest in becoming the committee chairperson. Stephen O'Sullivan continued as the chair of the meeting and this item will be brought forward again at the next meeting.

**B. Recommended Actions/Presentations:**

1. Math Achievement Action Plan Update.

Superintendent Jeannie Armstrong introduced the Math Team, consisting of Jennifer Minnie, Nancy McCarthy, Adelle Cronin, Amanda Walchuk, and Shannon Shillinglaw. The team gave a presentation about the Math Achievement Action Plan and updates that have been made for the 2024-2025 school year which have been informed by data received from EQAO testing results. PVNCCDSB is among boards who have shown an increase in math results this year as there are more children who are reaching the provincial standard.

The priority areas that have been set by the Ministry: fidelity of curriculum, mathematics content knowledge, and knowledge of the math learner and the team's approach to the areas of focus, were explained.

New 'Math Up' resources have been distributed to teachers in grades Kindergarten through 9 and the use of 'Knowledgehook' software is a district-wide approach to math support.

The Math team will be hosting parent engagement sessions again this school year. The first will be held on October 17<sup>th</sup> and there will be sessions in February and April which focus on EQAO testing.

At the end of the presentation the committee and guests had the opportunity to ask questions which were answered by the Math Team.

## 2. Outdoor Play Spaces.

Kerri Riel, Early Years and Child Care Program Supervisor, gave a slideshow presentation about outdoor play spaces. The presentation demonstrated ways in which natural play spaces provide health opportunities for child play to be active and creative which has been supported by research.

A key consideration is to have loose parts, which are natural materials that can be used as the children choose, promoting creativity and endless opportunities.

Kerri Riel referenced the Board's [Administrative Procedure 619, Playground Equipment Installation and Maintenance](#) which provides the framework in which schools must work to provide spaces for children. Other considerations noted by Kerri were to have storage solutions so materials are easily accessed, install mature trees whenever possible, to consider "safe as necessary, not safe as possible", install open-ended equipment such as a mud kitchen, and large sandboxes with covers.

It was noted that research indicates that outdoor play which involves creativity and open-ended play positively contributes to higher math and literacy scores.

There was a discussion about a possible future presentation on the construction aspect of school playgrounds and the restrictions and considerations needed by Catholic School Councils when they are planning school playground and outdoor spaces.

Kerri Riel was thanked for her presentation and those present were able to have their questions answered.

## 3. Strategic Priorities Renewal

Stephen O'Sullivan, Director of Education explained that the current Strategic Priorities document is due for renewal in 2025. A review and renewal will be undertaken to determine the goals and priorities of the board. The new plan which will be brought to the trustees for approval will inform the board's initiatives and goals for the next several years.

The strategic priorities review process will include engagement with staff, students and parents, who will provide information and a mandate about what the board needs to do in the coming years. Engagement and discussions about who we are, what values we cherish, and where we want to be as a board will take place in many forums including Catholic

School Councils and the Catholic Parent Engagement Committee. More information will be forthcoming in the spring of 2025.

#### 4. Planning for 2024-2025 - CPEC Meetings and Events

The committee discussed Dr. Jody Carrington as a possible guest speaker for an event during this school year. Principal Julianne Charette spoke about her experience seeing Dr. Carrington speak at a conference. Her topics can include trauma, grief and how it plays together when we are supporting children through experiencing big feelings.

There was discussion about the funds available to bring a guest speaker. The committee was unanimously in favour of engaging Dr. Jody Carrington as a keynote speaker for an event for parents.

### C. **Information Items:**

#### 1. Parent Engagement Funding

Michelle Kennedy, Executive Assistant gave a brief verbal report about the funding available to the Catholic Parent Engagement Committee for the 2024-2025 school year.

The Ministry of Education provides funds for parent engagement in a few areas. The first is funding for the Parent Involvement Committee amount. The amount provided to PVNC Catholic is \$7,245 and is calculated based on the number of full-time equivalent students in the board. This amount is for the central operation of the Catholic Parent Engagement Committee and to support communications and activities with the parent councils and support learning at school and at home.

The second amount is the school council amount. The amount provided to PVNC Catholic is \$18,000 or \$500 per school. Each school council has access to this money to support the work of each Catholic school council.

The third amount is the 'Parents Reaching Out' (PRO) amount. PVNC Catholic is provided a base amount of \$1,500 plus \$500 per school, or \$19,500. This funding is to "support initiatives that identify and address local parent needs and/or remove barriers that prevent parents from participating and engaging fully in their children's learning and education progress."

#### 2. System Updates

Stephen O'Sullivan, Director of Education updated the committee on various aspects of board activities and work taking place this fall:

- Administration and trustees engaged in a visit with MPP David Piccini to tour Notre Dame Catholic Elementary School and St. Michael Catholic Elementary School. The

purpose of the tour was for MPP Piccini to gain understanding of the facilities are being utilized as best they can. The board has begun the process of preparing to build a new school in Bowmanville and will be on-track for opening in September 2026.

- St. Anne Catholic Elementary School celebrated their 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary. It was a true celebration of the people that have contributed to the school community and of the beacon of Catholic education that St. Anne has been in Peterborough.
- St. Mary Catholic Secondary School will be hosting the Junior Achievement Program and MPP David Piccini on October 10. It will be an opportunity for the Junior Achievement organization to showcase some of their programs and for students to engage with the MPP Piccini to demonstrate their learning in the skilled trades programs.
- Extra curriculums are underway throughout the system including a multitude of clubs, activities and sports. We are grateful to the staff and parents and students who organize and engage in these activities that enrich students' experiences in our Catholic schools.

At the conclusion of his report, Stephen O'Sullivan answered questions from the Committee.

### 3. Committee Member Updates.

The following committee members shared their updates:

Rachel Logan reported that a friend has produced a film called "Plastic People: The Hidden Crisis of Microplastics" and that the license fee for screening has been waived should schools be interested in accessing this film for environmental education purposes. Rachel Logan also reported that Marshall Homan will be bringing a presentation to St. Stephen Catholic Secondary School for some students. Marshall Homan speaks about accessibility and inclusivity. <https://www.marshalltalks.com/>

Jennifer Ball reported that students are experiencing a good start to the year once they get to school. Clarington has been hard hit with the number of routes that don't have drivers for buses. The safety of students and parents in the kiss and ride areas also continues to be a concern with drivers in excess of speed limits and double parking and parking in no parking zones.

## D. **Conclusion:**

### 1. Closing Prayer.

Julianne Charette closed the meeting with prayer.

2. Adjournment.

MOTION: Moved by Rachel Logan, seconded by Christine Haffie  
that the meeting adjourn at 8:26 p.m.

Carried.